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(c) the average expenditure in the same period incurred by the Government on account of (i) establishment and (ii) other charge;

(d) the sum for which the right to manage the said forests was first handed over to the forest panchayat for management; and

(e) the sum agreed to in the last year of lease;

(ii) to furnish similar information in the case of the other forest reserves in the Bellary district now under the management of the forest panchayats?

A.—The Government have no information.

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar :—" Will the Government call for the information ? "

The hon. Mr. A. R. Knapp :—" I may explain to the hon. Member that the answer is this: The question was received even during the last session. We have obtained some information since. The answer to
(a) is 'Yes' in 1916;
(b) & (c) information is not available;
(d) Rs. 250;
(e) Rs. 225.
As regards (b) and (c) it has been ascertained that the information is not available in the Chief Conservator's Office or anywhere else.
As regards (ii) of the question, I think I am entitled to ask for some information as to the kind of information the hon. Member wants in regard to the forest reserves in the Bellary district."

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar :—" Has the amount been fixed without any reference whatsoever to the income and expenditure in connexion therewith ? "

The hon. Mr. A. R. Knapp :—" The amount is certainly fixed with reference to the income previously received by Government. I understand that my hon. Friend, Mr. Tireman, has recently given some attention to this matter and the tendency now is to reduce the amount that we ask the panchayats to pay."

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar :—" I take it that these were fixed with reference to the rates during the previous year. If so, how is it that they are not able to provide information? I ask for the income and expenditure in that connexion."

No answer.

Distribution of the disafforested areas in Erode taluk.

4 Q.—Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it was the intention of the Government that a portion of forests recently disafforested in the Erode taluk should be given to the members of the depressed and backward communities; and, if so, whether that intention was communicated to the Collector;

(b) if it is a fact that the Collector passed orders that two-thirds of the lands available should be given to the London Mission authorities to be disposed of by them; and, if so, whether the Collector gave any directions as to their distribution;

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(c) if it is a fact that the Mission authorities have given some lands to Christian Adi-Dravidas only who are natives of Erode taluk or strangers coming from other taluks ;

(d) if it is a fact that the Christian Adi-Dravidas form only a very small portion of the population of Erode taluk and there are a large number belonging to several depressed and backward classes such as Chuckliars, Koravas, Oddars, etc., and non-Christian Adi-Dravidas who are absolutely landless ;

(e) whether mahazars were sent to and deputations met the Collector requesting that lands be given to the persons referred to in the latter portion of clause (d) ; and what orders have been passed by the Collector regarding them ;

(f) whether the Government have any intention of taking the matter and passing orders as to the equal distribution of lands to all landless people belonging to all depressed and backward communities in Erode taluk ; and

(g) whether the Government have any objection to consider the advisability of appointing a small committee to go into the whole matter and recommend the best way of equitably distributing the abovementioned two-thirds of the available lands in Erode taluk among people belonging to depressed and backward communities ?

A.—(a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f) & (g) The hon. Member is referred to G.O. No. 1410, Revenue, dated 17th September 1923, a copy of which was communicated to him.

IRRIGATION.

The Sangameswaram project.

5 *Q.*—Rao Bahadur C. VENKATARANGA REDDI : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(1) whether the Sangameswaram project will be taken up for execution in the near future ;

(2) if not, in what stage the project now is ;

(3) whether any special officer has been appointed for the purpose ;

(4) the estimated cost of the project ; and

(5) the probable extent of land in the Kurnool district that will be served by that project ?

A.—(1) & (2) Arrangements are being made for a preliminary examination of the site of the proposed reservoir but the suitability of the site has not yet been decided and the plans and estimates are not likely to be prepared for sanction in the near future.

(3) The Special Chief Engineer who is revising the estimates for the Metur Reservoir to provide for current rates for work is also arranging for the investigation referred to.

(4) About 26 crores.

(5) About 175,000 acres.

Irrigation projects in the Coimbatore district.

6 *Q.*—Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to give a list of all irrigation projects under consideration in the Coimbatore district with their approximate cost and the probable time when each of them is likely to be taken up ?